

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A wood-based decorative article ~~according to claim 16,~~ comprising:

a veneer formed by slicing wood and being light permeable; and

a substrate formed of a transparent synthetic resin and joined to a rear surface of said veneer, said substrate having rigidity and a larger thickness than that of said veneer;

wherein a transparent reinforcing member for reinforcing said veneer is interposed between said veneer and said substrate.

18. (Original) A wood-based decorative article according to claim 17, wherein at least one of said veneer and said reinforcing member is impregnated with a transparent synthetic resin.

19. (Currently amended) A wood-based decorative article according to ~~claim 16~~ claim 17, wherein a design layer for increasing variation of a design of said veneer is arranged on at least one of front and rear surfaces of said substrate.

20. (Original) A wood-based decorative article according to claim 19, wherein said design layer is removably attached to said rear surface of said substrate.

21. (Currently amended) A wood-based decorative article according to ~~claim 16~~ claim 17, wherein a light source for illumination is provided on a rear surface side of said substrate.

22. (Original) A wood-based decorative article according to claim 21, wherein at least one of a color and an amount of light emitted from said light source is variable.

23. (Original) A wood-based decorative article according to claim 21, wherein a light guide plate for making uniform said light from said light source is interposed between said light source and said substrate.

24. (Original) A wood-based decorative article according to claim 21, wherein a display member for displaying predetermined information is provided on a front surface of said veneer.

25. (Currently amended) A wood-based decorative article according to ~~claim 16~~ claim 17, wherein an indicator for giving a predetermined indication by using at least one of a liquid crystal device and an LED device is provided on a rear surface side of said substrate.

26. (Currently amended) A wood-based decorative article according to ~~claim 16~~ claim 17, wherein part of said substrate is formed of an opaque synthetic resin.

27. (Currently amended) A wood-based decorative article according to ~~claim 16~~ claim 17, wherein a topcoat is applied to a front surface of said veneer.

28. (Canceled)